Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

There is a need and demand for portable filter units capable of protecting a room airspace or other enclosure airspace against nuclear, biological, and chemical agent attacks that occur outside the enclosure, as well as capturing any internal contamination within a negative pressure area prior to release to the outside air.~~.~~ In this regard, easily portable CBR filter units are needed that can be conveniently handled, transported, and rapidly deployed into service without requiring time-consuming or complicated installation steps or infrastructure or support. CBR filter units can be expected to be potentially deployed in a wide variety of different CBR threat scenarios requiring a highly versatile unit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Portable air cleaning units for use in the nuclear industry have been described that have a fan assembly that is integrally connected always on the downstream side of a filter assembly, such that the air cleaning unit is structurally designed and capable of only being operated in an air draw-through mode relative to the filter assembly. A filter unit of that type is described in the Nuclear Air Cleaning Handbook, DOE-HDBK-XXXX-2002, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Chapter 6, June 28, 2002 ("Draft"), pp. 216-220. That filter configuration, however, would have serious drawbacks if implemented as a general airspace cleaner used to clean and pressurize an enclosure when this unit is located in the contaminated area.~~.~~ Although not recognized or address in the prior art, in that general airspace cleaning scenario, air leakage or infiltration would occur, or would be at high risk of occurring, in the intervening air passage or at the associated air seals that structurally must be made between the filtering and fan assemblies or around filter service doors panels that are required of

such a filter unit. Air infiltration into that filter unit could occur when the fan assembly is being used to draw or pull air through the filter unit due to contaminated air present in the surrounding airspace bypassing the filter assembly by infiltrating through the air sealed connection or duct between the filter and fan assemblies. In this manner, contaminated unfiltered air can get sucked into and combine with the filtered air stream. In that undesired infiltration situation, the actual or potential problem is that filtered air can become recontaminated by the contaminated infiltrating air before it is discharged from the filter unit. The prior art does not mention or address this application or problems arising therein. If an attempt were made to design the leakage or infiltration problem away, i.e., attempt to manufacture a bona fide completely air-tight filter unit enclosure, that generally would be too costly for filter units intended for wide market distribution including private consumers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 1, a filter unit **100** according to a representative, non-limiting embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in schematic form. In a preferred embodiment, the filter unit **100** is a multi-sectioned device that is rapidly deployable as a single unitary packaged unit. It includes a pre-filter ~~11~~ **11** to remove large particles that may prematurely load the HEPA filter ~~12~~ **12** that removes biological and radiological contaminants and a high efficiency gas adsorber filter ~~13~~ **13** that removes chemical and radiological gases **13** in one section **10** and a motor driven fan **22** in a separate fan section **12**, with the capability of reconfiguring the sequence of the sections **10** and **20** such that the airflow either passes through the fan section **20** or the filter section **10** first before passing through the other remaining section, depending on the event in which the filter unit **100** is deployed to prevent releases of

contaminates by the filter unit **100** that are harmful or potentially harmful to persons located inside or outside the enclosure. The filter unit **100** can be transported as a single unit to a location where it is desired to deploy it. The CBR filtering section **10** of filter unit **100** is applied to an air stream **62** drawn (pulled) or blown (forced) through the filter section **10** of the filter unit **10**. For purposes herein, a "section" means a unitary module or subassembly.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The fan section **20** will have opposite lateral end faces **201** and **202**, either one of which can be mated and latched to either of the lateral ends **101** and **102** of the filter section **10** ~~nearest the prefilter **11**~~ to form close to an air tight seal around the perimeter of the air conducting space. The lateral direction is indicated in FIG. 1 as direction ~~P~~ ℓ. Differential pressure gauges **15** can be included to monitor loading on one or more of the particle filters **11** and**12**. Individual gauges for each stage of filtration can be used or a single gauge can be used to monitor more than one filtration stage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

As an example of such a releasably attachable interconnection mechanism, fast action positive pressure latches can be used in one preferred embodiment that permit the filter unit to be disconnected and then reconfigured to adapt to multiple unit applications for positive and negative pressure applications. Several of these section interconnection mechanisms can be used to make the interconnection of the fan and filter sections, such as by fixing the interconnection mechanisms in a generally uniformly spaced relationship around the circumference of the lateral ends of the filter and fan sections. Suitable commercial brands of positive pressure latches that

can be adapted for use in the present invention in this regard includes is, for example, a quick release pressure door latch. FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary non-limiting latch connection made between two abutting lateral ends of a filter section **10** and a fan section **20** using a latch mechanism **30** of this type. This non-limiting example of releasable latch includes a stationary hook ~~301~~ **301** including a base ~~303~~ **303** screwed, riveted, welded or otherwise fixedly mounted to filter section ~~10~~ **10**, and a pivotal hook ~~302~~ **302** mounted on fan section ~~20~~ **20** via a rivet, screw, or similar connection means at its base ~~304~~ **304** and includes a pivotal lever ~~306~~ **306** that can be manually operated to hook the pivotal hook ~~302~~ **302** around stationary hook ~~301~~ **301** and then be pressed down in an opposite direction as indicated by the double arrow in FIG. 3 by rotation of the lever around another pivot ~~308~~ **308**. As will be appreciated, in an alternative arrangement the stationary hook ~~301~~ **301** can be mounted on the fan section ~~20~~ **20** and the pivotal hook ~~302~~ **302** and hand lever can be mounted on the filter section ~~10~~ **10**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Nerve agents include Sarin (GB, 107-44-8), cyclosarin (GF), VX (50782-69-9), and Tabun (GA, 77-81-6). These nerve agents are chemically similar to organophosphate pesticides, but are up to a thousand times more potent. GB has an LCt_{50} (vapor) of 70 mg min/m^3. While relatively more toxic than GB, VX also has a much lower volatility and thus poses less of an airborne threat to occupants of buildings and other enclosures receiving conventionally filtered air. The Airborne Exposure Limit for the nerve agents GB, VX, GA or GD, as recommended by the Surgeon General's Working Group, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, is 0.003 ~~Φg/cm~~^{3} μg/cm^3.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

The filter unit of the present invention also offers protection against blood agents, such as cyanogen chloride (CK), arsine (SA), hydrogen chloride (AC), or hydrocyanic acid (HCN). Blood agents produce their effects by impairing cellular oxygen use. Inhalation is the usual entry route. In high concentrations, the amount of CK or AC inhaled in even a few breaths may be enough to cause rapid death, while even exposure to lower concentrations for a sufficient duration of time can lead to permanent injuries or death. The present invention also protects against choking agents such as phosgene, chlorine, and so forth. CK also has a choking effect.